BSFA CONVENTION 1965

BRUM-CON 2

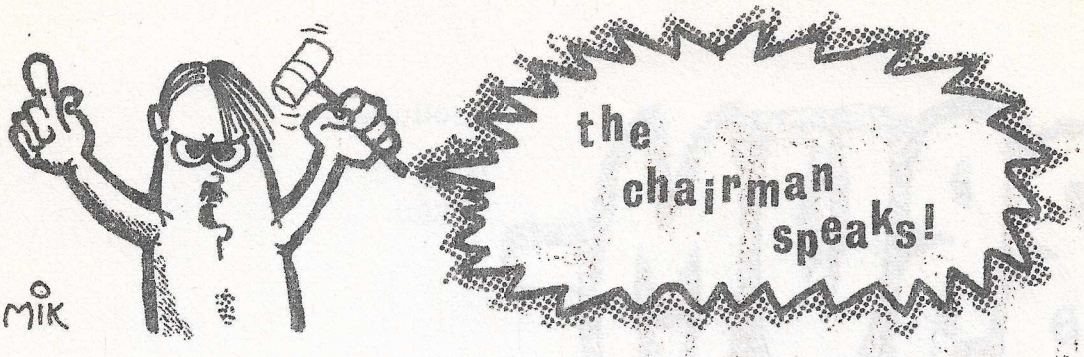
PROGRAMME BOOKLET

Produced by Mike Higgs

Typed by Cynthia Grant.

Printed by Ken Cheslin.

MIDLAND HOTEL · EASTER 1965.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the second Birmingham Convention. As you will have noticed, I say a second Birmingham convention, because six years ago there was another convention here, the first Birmingham convention and the first science fiction convention to be held under the auspices of the B.S.F.A. At that time the B.S.F.A. was less than a year old and none of the present committee even knew of the existence of the association and in fact apart from myself (initiated at this historic first B.S.F.A. convention), none of the present convention committee had any inkling of the existence of the B.S.F.A. and Fandom.

Terry Jeeves, Bob Richardson, Ron Bennet, and Norman Shorrock formed the committee for that convention. Except for Bob Richardson, the rest of the committee are still with us.

Since that time, the B.S.F.A. has grown in numbers and in services to its members, perhaps not fulfilling the magnificent ideals the founders aspired to-wards as yet, but on the whole the B.S.F.A. is a healthy organisation and a thriving concern.

Conventions have also changed and grown since that first convention, especially grown. The changes have been in the direction of better organisation and catering toward the more science fictionaly minded attendees, on the other hand the conventions have retained that friendly and convivial air born of the years when it was a proud and lonely thing to be a science fiction reader. The friendly spirit which provades the conventions, the traditional open arms with which old hands welcome in the neos (tolerance is sometimes strained, I confess) is something unique to our particular hobby and its addearance.

When my neofannish eyes beheld the first Birmingham convention their was scarse fourty attendees haunting the dim recesses of the Convention hotel, but over the years, largely due to the B.S.F.A., this figure has increased to almost 150 people at the last convention.

This year it is true that the Easter convention attendance is down but this is largely due, I believe, to the fact that there is a world convention in London this year. No doubt, next year the trend towards bigger conventions will again be seen.

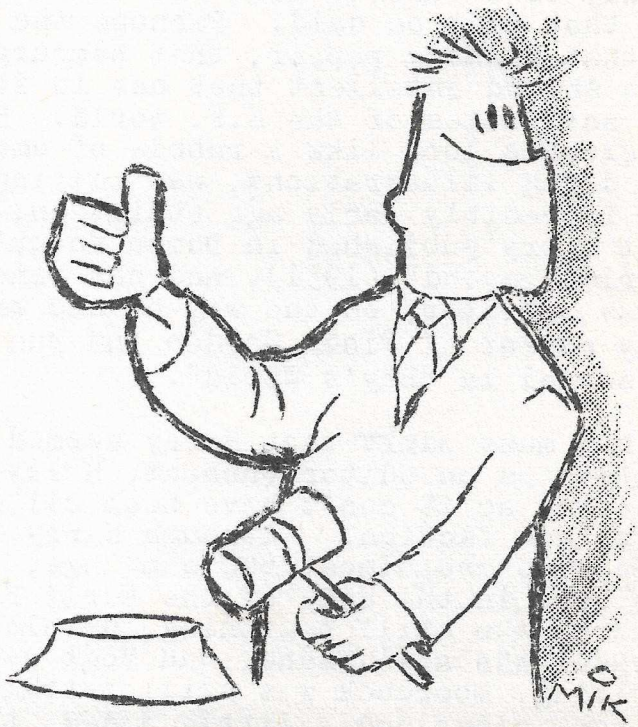
The actual size of the convention should have no bearing on the amount of enjoyment the attendees get from it and we, the Brummies, the Committee and myself trust that this will prove true once again. It would be immensley satisfying for us here in Birmingham to succeed in putting it on and not being too unworthy of those in former years.

Once again on behalf of the entire Birmingham Group,

WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION.

..... Ken. M.P. Cheslin.

April 1965.



G.O.H.

by BRIAN W. ALDISS

Anyone rifling through my collection of colour slides would stub his pupils on a considerable number of photographs of a swallowing man. These slides were taken over a number of years and show the swallowing man in a number of places: Copenhagen, Elsinore, Sweden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxford, Trieste, Jugoslavia, Tom Boardman's Place. Although the gestures may perhaps grow a little obscener from year to year, the swallowing man never seems to grow any older or balder. It is hard to see his face, for it is usually partly concealed behind a mighty sandwich, a meat pie, a flaming hot pepper, or a big glass full of the liquor of the country.

The swallowing man - not to keep you in suspense any longer - is Harry Harrison, our Guest of Honour; or perhaps it should be, for this breezy personality, our Gust of Honour; and one of Science Fiction's greatest and nicest personalities. We would be here all day if I were to list all his virtues, but there are a few things that must be said. Perhaps the most important is that behind that flaming pepper, that hamburger, that stein of beer, lurks a shrewd intellect that has in its time covered almost all the activities of the S.F. world. Harry makes the rest of us professionals look like a rabble of amateurs. He entered the field by doing illustrations, was editing a couple of magazines at an incredibly early age (thirteen, wasn't it, Harry?), had his first story published in Damon Knight's late-lamented magazine "Worlds Beyond" (1951), and has since then slowly climbed in eminence as a writer; on the way he has written many episodes in the stormy career of Flash Gordon and run one of his best novels as a serial in "Boy's World".

Although I must admit that Harry seemed to me harsh, unjust and imperceptive as an editor (honest, Harry, "Nebula" printed that story later, so it can't have been all bad), I have only admiration for his fiction. Although Harry looks so much older than I, in fact we are almost the same age, and we were both nourished as boys in the S.F. of the Early Forties, that golden time when Clarke was still beginning, Heinlein was still intelligible, Sturgeon was still sane, van Vogt was still mad, Asimov was still writing, Moorcock was still tetthing, and so on. It seems to me now, older and a little jaded, that only Harry still brings into his fiction the enormous gusto that moved his distinguished predecessors. For me, when "Analog" came along,

"Astounding" quietly died; and the old skill and savagery only has resurrection when Harrison writes. He writes not like an angel but like a demon. As the devil has all the best tunes, so Harry has all the best titles. Like Graham Greene, Harry has the knack of the true writer in inventing an absolutely incontrovertible title. Who has ever rivalled a label like "Stainless Steel Rat"? Answer: only the author of "Deathworld", "Sense of Obligation", "The Ethical Engineer" and "Bill the Galactic Hero".

A snide remark I'd like to make is this. Most writers of science fiction and most fans write or read about great swaggering heroes hurtling through the galaxies and discomfiting, with blaster or pungent phrase, alien and maiden alike. Yet in real life, they are quiet little shy chaps who would hardly dare think of two ways to insult their own mothers. Harry is different. When he is around, you know it; and since his presence infects me with euphoria, I love it that way. The swallowing man also happens to give out all the time. He's a good talker, a crazy joker, a huge drinker, a tough traveller, a hard worker, a great lover, a dirty esperantist, and a sack of other things too humorous to mention. That's Harry the Galactic Handful, and it's a wonderful idea that he has brought his mercurial wife Joan over to stop him tearing Brum apart.

Harry is such an old and revolting friend of mine that I'd like to end on a sentimental note. This strange American with Russian blood in his veins who lives in Denmark, loves all that is most awful in Britain, eats Mexican and Indian food, has business connections with Tokyo and fan clubs in Italy, not to mention holidays in Hungary and the Arctic Circle, is something of an international figure or I don't know one if I see one.

What I do know is that we do ourselves an honour by choosing him to be Guest of Honour. Harry leads the field, and it couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

..... Brian W. Aldiss.

March 1965.

BIRMINGHAM

On the opposite page is a map of Birminghams City Centre, showing locations of Restaurants. They are marked on the map as large black dots. You can find any particular restaurant by simply comparing the black dots with the list below:

Corporation Street	------	Star of India Restaurant.
Cannon Street	------	Clover and Rice Bowl Restaurants.
Smallbrook Ringway	------	Wimpey Bar.
New Street	------	Long Johns and Lyons Restaurants
Bull Ring (Beneath Multi storey Car park)	------	Slowboat Restaurant.
Bull Ring Centre	------	Chopsticks and Heavens - Bridge Restaurants.
Hurst Street	------	Golden Chicken and Tung-Fong Restaurants.
Horsefair	------	Curry Centre and Bombay Restaurants

These should be sufficient to satisfy every member, there are many others but these are the one's most likely to be open on Easter Sunday and Monday. Pubs are too numerous to mention on the map and we've no doubt that many of you won't need a map for these.

The Midland Hotel serves excellent meals for those of you who wish to stay in, there is also a special sea food Bar and of course the Hotel is Licensed.

If the Hotel Car Park is full the best Car Park is the Multi-storey Car Park in the Bull Ring, it never closes and the rates are extremely cheap.

..... M.W. Higgs

BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

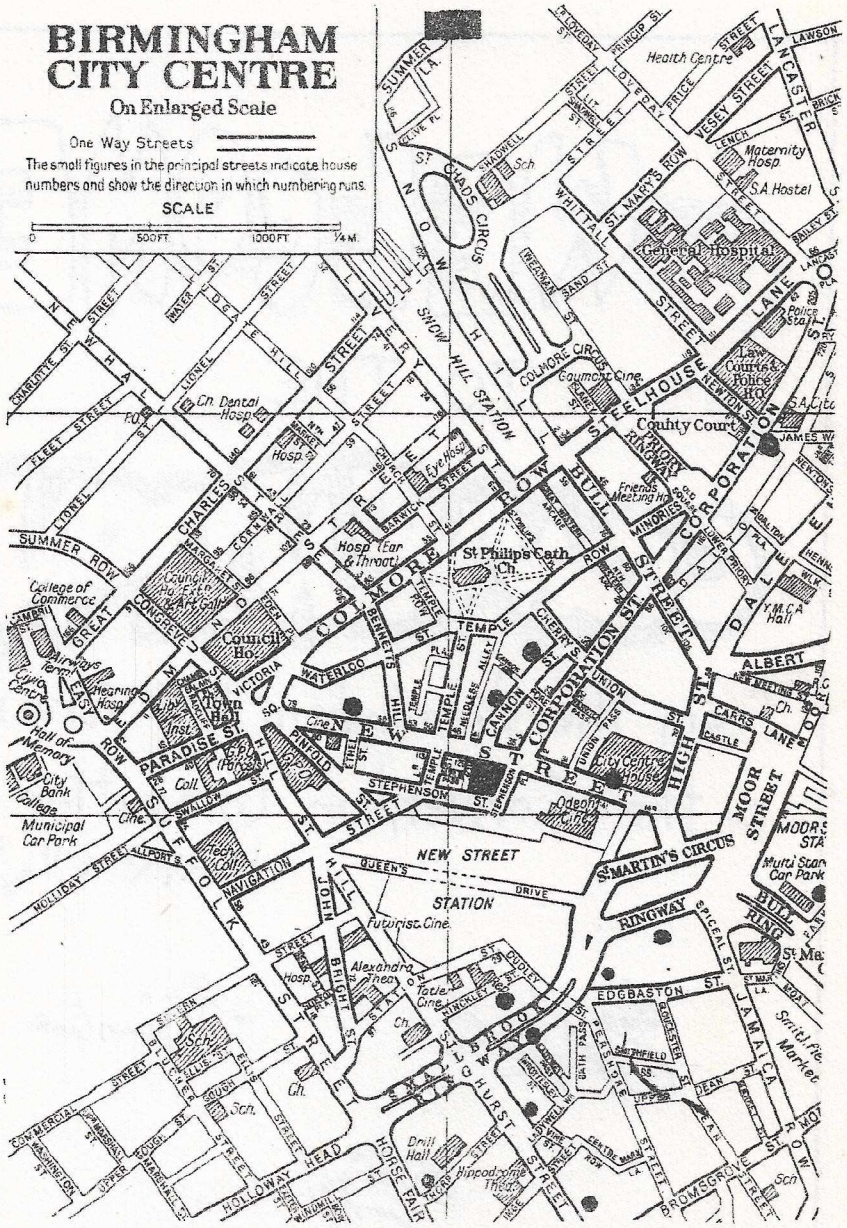
On Enlarged Scale

One Way Streets

The small figures in the principal streets indicate house numbers and show the direction in which numbering runs.

SCALE

0 500 FT. 1000 FT. ¼ M.



WELCOME

TO THE

CONVENTION

from the Birmingham S-F Group
& the Convention Committee :-

K M P Chaplin.

Roger G. Peyton

P. Winstone

M. W. Higgs

your programme...

8-45 P.M. FRIDAY FILM SHOW

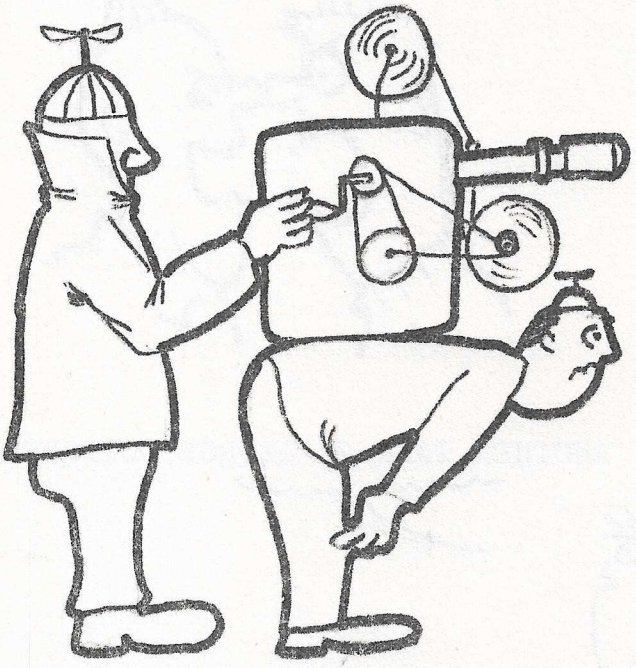
presents.....

FORBIDDEN PLANET

plus

3 CARTOON SHORTS

"FARM OF THE FUTURE"
"HOUSE OF THE FUTURE"
"CAR OF THE FUTURE"



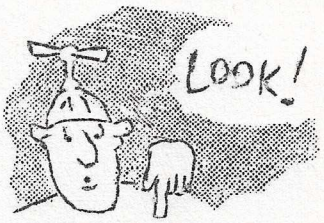
THE REST OF THE EVENING IS...

FRIDAY

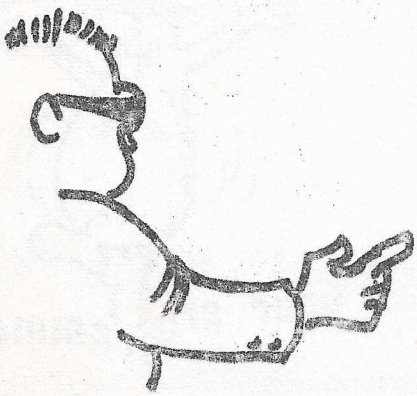
16th APRIL.

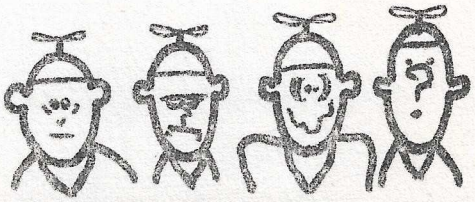
BOOKING IN. TEA, AND
SUCH LIKE ACTIVITIES.

3-30 p.m.



3-0 p.m. OFFICIAL OPENING. MEET THE GUEST OF HONOUR.





SATURDAY

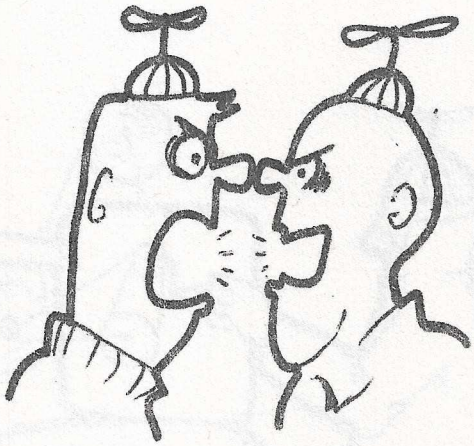
17th APRIL.

GOOD MORNING!

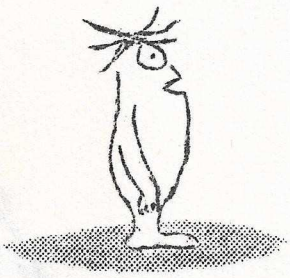
GET READY FOR... AUCTION

10-0 The GROUP 65

11-0 TALK BY G.H. DOHERTY.

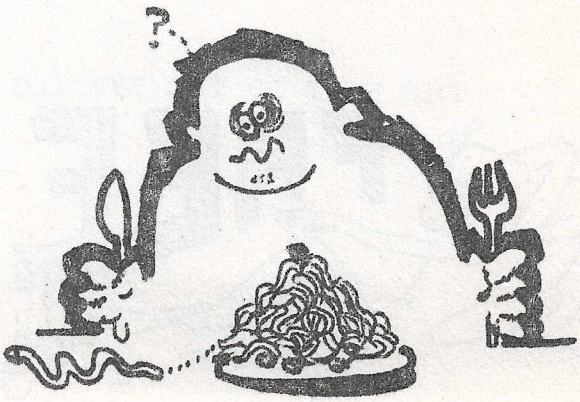


12-0 ANOTHER TALK BY GEORGE SCITHERS.



12-20 LUNCH.

SAUSAGES ANYONE?



SATURDAY 17th APRIL.

2-0

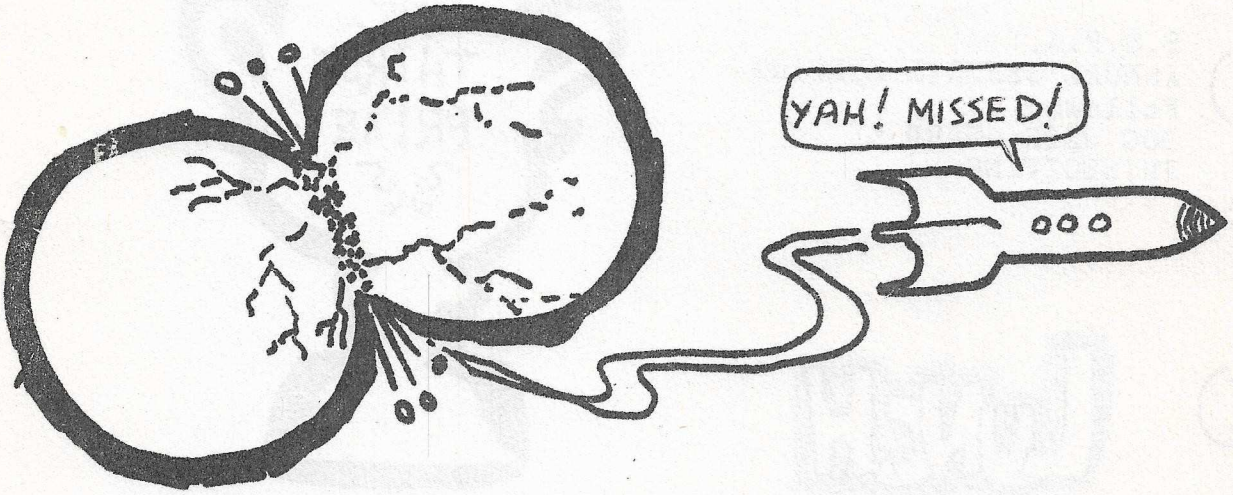
CONFILMS

CONQUEST OF SPACE.

PLUS

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE.

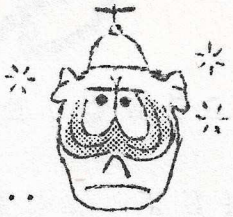
Followed by Tea at approx 5.0pm.



7-0 MAD RAVING SATURDAY NIGHT SHINDIG.....featuring.....
Fancy Dress (8.0) plus Sacrificing Virgins at the Altar etc.

SUNDAY

18th APRIL.

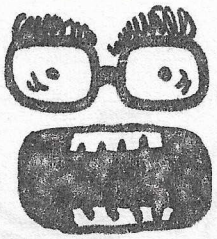


THE MORNING AFTER...

10-0 B.S.F.A.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Followed by
DOC WEIR AWARD &
PRIZEGIVING.

12-0 LUNCH

2-0



GUEST OF HONOUR SPEAKS
Listen to the Stainless Steel
Rat himself.

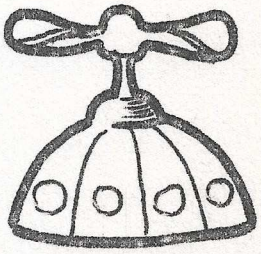
3-0 PRO PANEL

QUESTIONS PLEASE!

SUNDAY 18th APRIL.

4-0 BRUMCON 2 AUCTION

5-0 TEA TIME AGAIN!

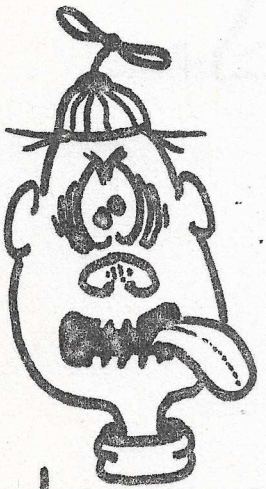


7-30 FAN PANEL

FOLLOWED BY

OFFICIAL CLOSEDOWN.
with a last word from the Chairman.

REST OF EVENING IS LIKE, FREE MAN!

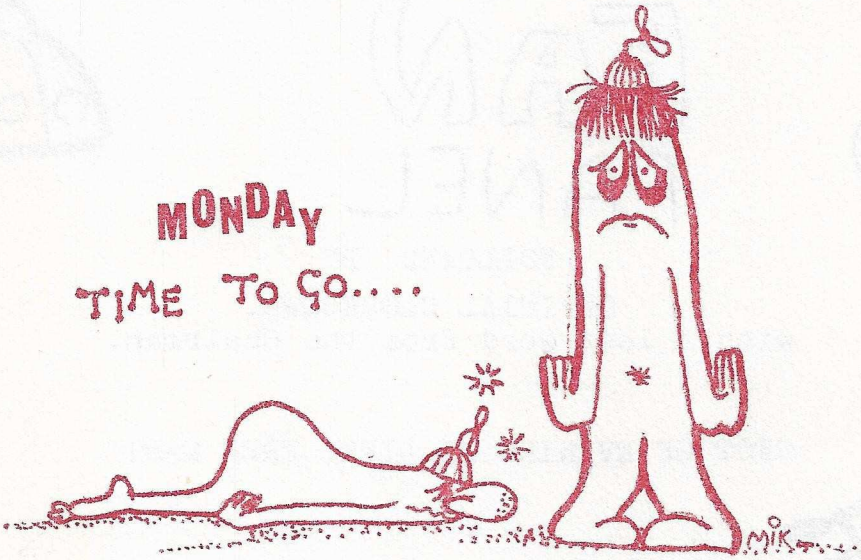


WHAT! ANOTHER PARTY!

CLEVELAND PARTY

TRICON

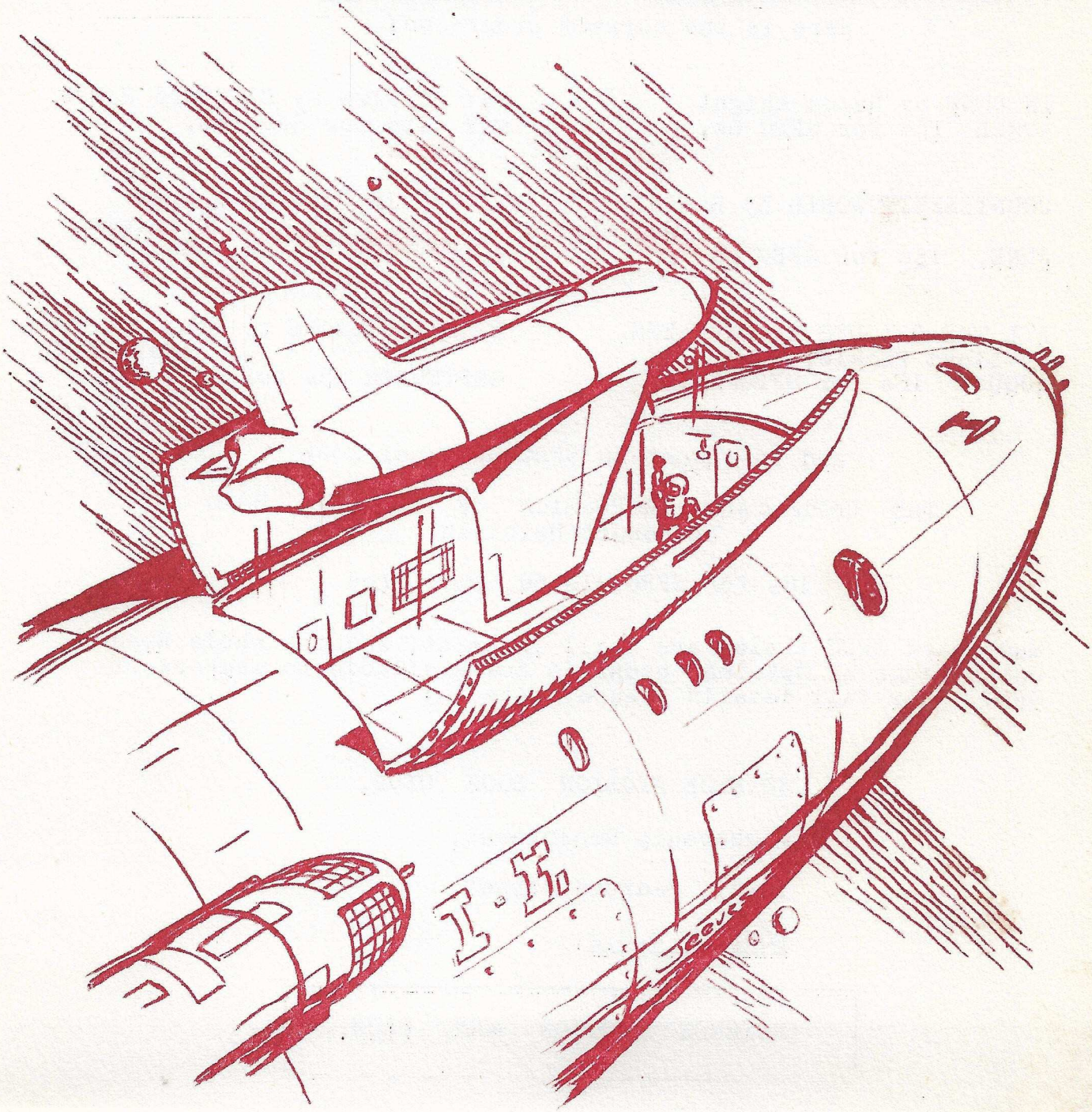
.....and the best of british Luck.


MONDAY
TIME TO GO....
MIK

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE wishes you

A HAPPY CONVENTION



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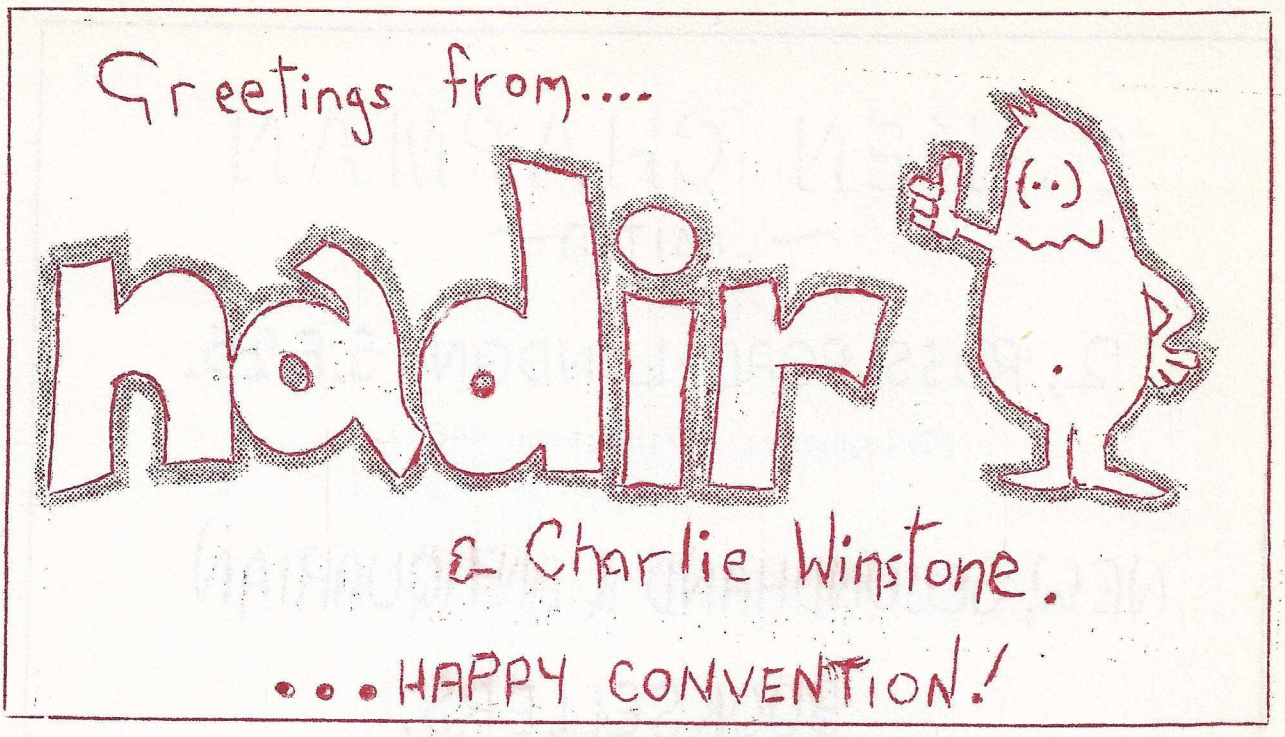

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ENJOY BRUMCON 2

From the ZENITH staff;

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Doreen Parker
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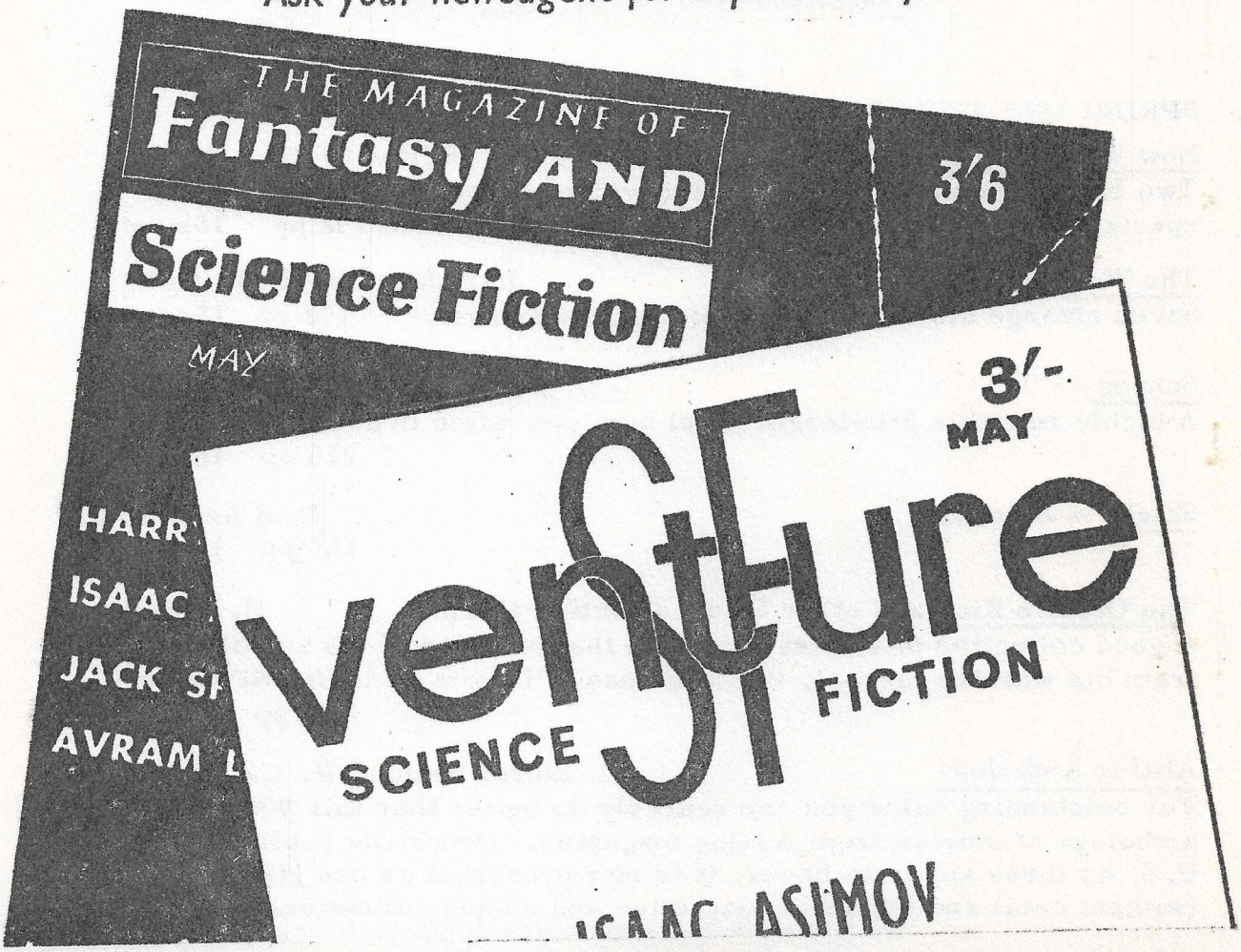

TOP NAMES ON THE **DOBSON** SF LIST

*

Robert Heinlein

Poul Anderson

Isaac Asimov

Mark Clifton

Eric Frank Russell

*

Alan E. Nourse

Arthur Sellings

Frederik Pohl

Lloyd Biggle Jr

H. L. Gold

*

*

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DOC WEIR

THE DOC WEIR MEMORIAL AWARD is given annually to somebody who is considered to deserve it.

THE FACT that some member of the Convention thinks that any particular person deserves the Award is the only qualification that a potential winner needs.

AS PAST WINNERS of this Award, we would urge you to:

VOTE FOR THE FAN OF YOUR CHOICE

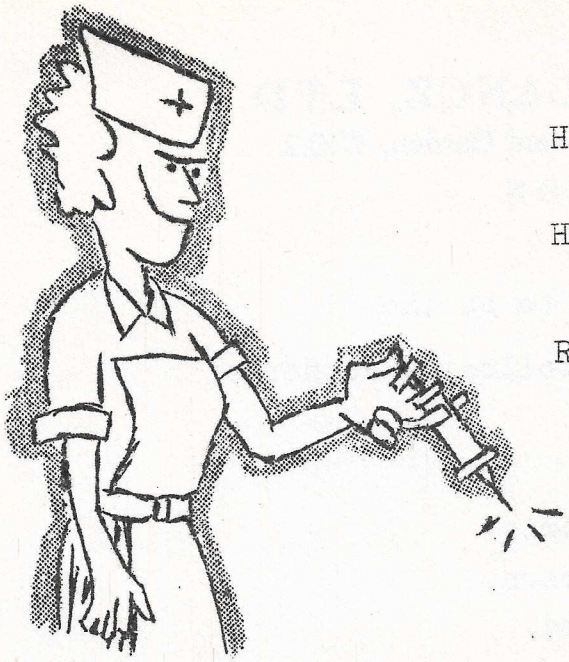
We are:

Peter H. Mabey, Doc Weir Memorial Award winner, 1963

Archie Mercer, Doc Weir Memorial Award winner, 1964

HERBERT
JENKINS

SF



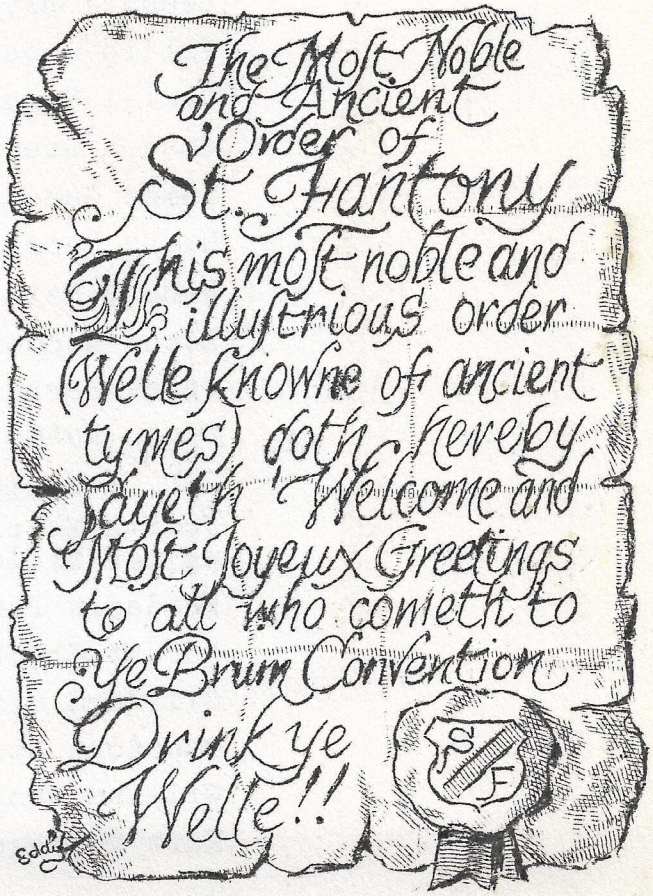
HAPPY CONVENTION TO ALL FROM ETHEL.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE LON CON.

REMEMBER TO TAKE AN ALKASELTZER BEFOREHAND!

"Sorry I can't be with you this year. Hope you all have a good time"

TERRY JEEVES.



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Kurt Vonnegut.

TRICON '66

The Cleveland, Detroit and Cincinnati fan clubs have had extensive experience in hosting worldcons: Cleveland in 1955, Detroit in 1959, Cincinnati in 1949. Our combined efforts should produce a really exceptional convention.

If given the opportunity, by being selected as the 1966 WorldCon hosts.

The Con will be held in Cleveland, with Ben Jason as the Chairman.

Cleveland was a staunch early supporter of the rotation plan, and aided immeasurably in its early passage. The rotation plan was strongly supported by the Detroit and Cincinnati groups, among others. These three organizations have never seriously considered deviating from this system. We will continue to back the rotation plan.

Please support the rotation system and vote for TRICON as the 1966 WorldCon site.

—The TRICON Committee—

blanchard soon

BEST WISHES

BRUMCON

DANNIE PLACHTA
DEAN MCLAUGHLIN
LLOYD BIGGLE JR.
HOWARD DEVORE

* * * * * *

THE MISFITS - CONSTITUTING THE WORLD'S LARGEST FAN CLUB* - ARE COMBINING WITH CLEVELAND AND CINCINNATI FANS FOR A UNITED WORLDCON BID. PLEASE MAINTAIN THE ROTATION SYSTEM AND SUPPORT

TRICON '66.

*WE DON'T COUNT 'EM - WE WEIGH 'EM!

BLANCHARD SOON

BLANCHARD

SOON...

IN THE MEANTIME

TRICON IN '66!

BEST WISHES BRUMCON

—DICK SCHULTZ—

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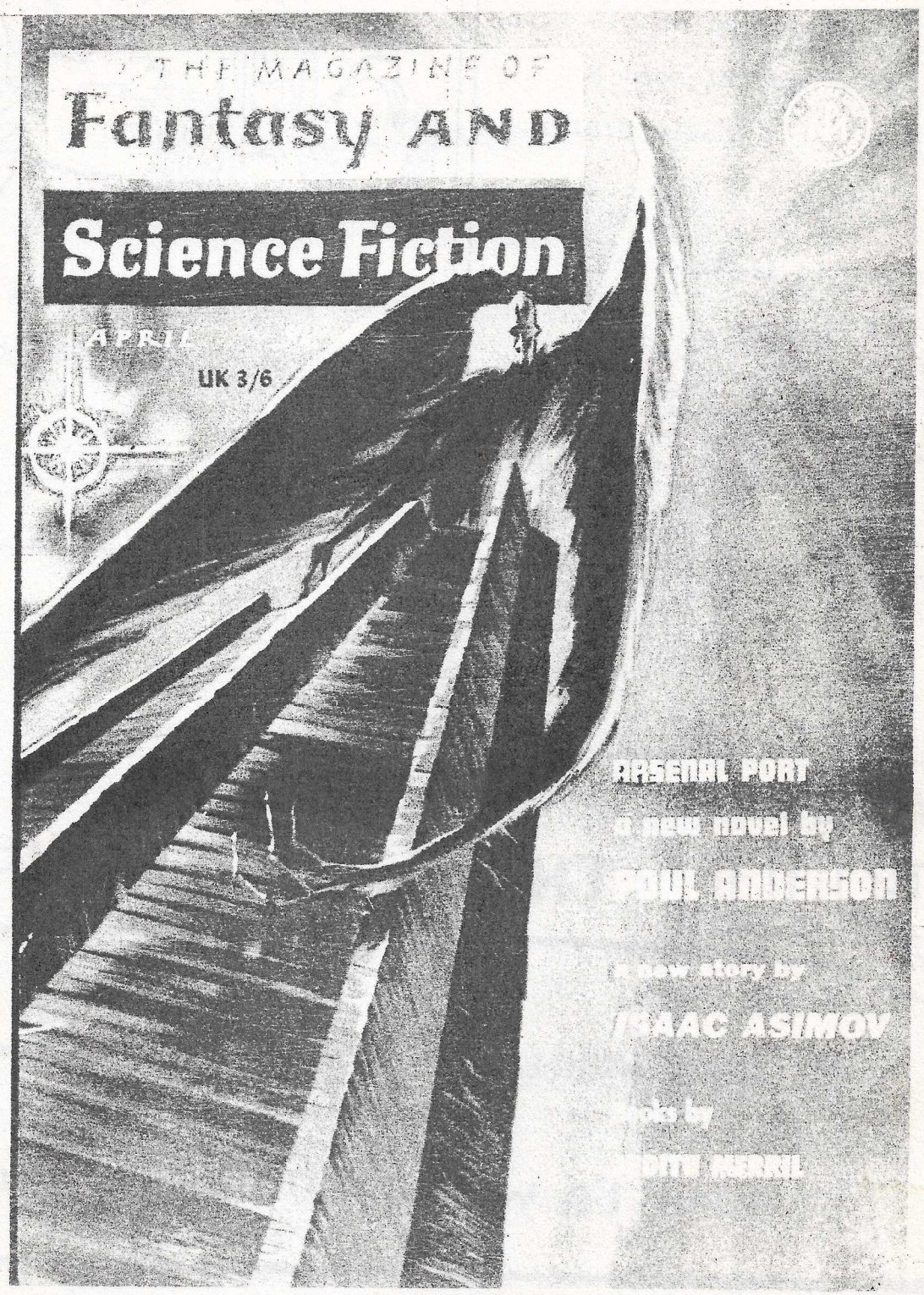
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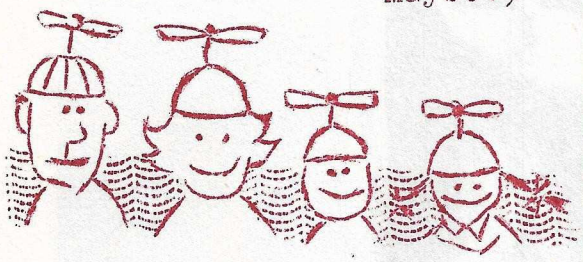
Fantasy AND
Science Fiction
APRIL
UK 3/6
ARSENAL PORT
a new novel by
POUL ANDERSON
a new story by
ISAAC ASIMOV
Books by
JUDITH MERRIL

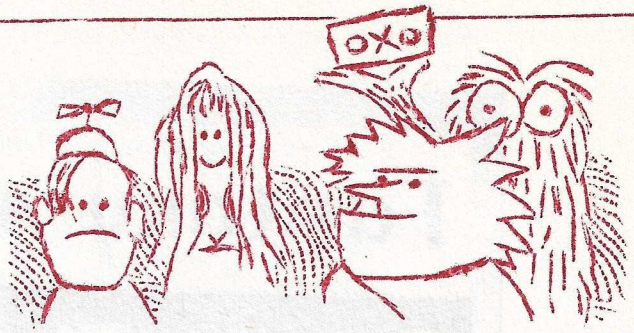
Conventional good wishes from

Joyce, Ken, Michael &

Susie Slater.

(See you in London, too, Maybe?)





TRIBE 'X' sends greetings to

all attendees of the Brumcon.

..... BERYL HENLEY.
(Editor: 'LINK'.)

HARRY -

"BILL THE GALACTIC HERO"

is the funniest book in all sf -

WISH I'D WRITTEN THAT! Brian

GREETINGS
FROM

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&

Science Fantasy

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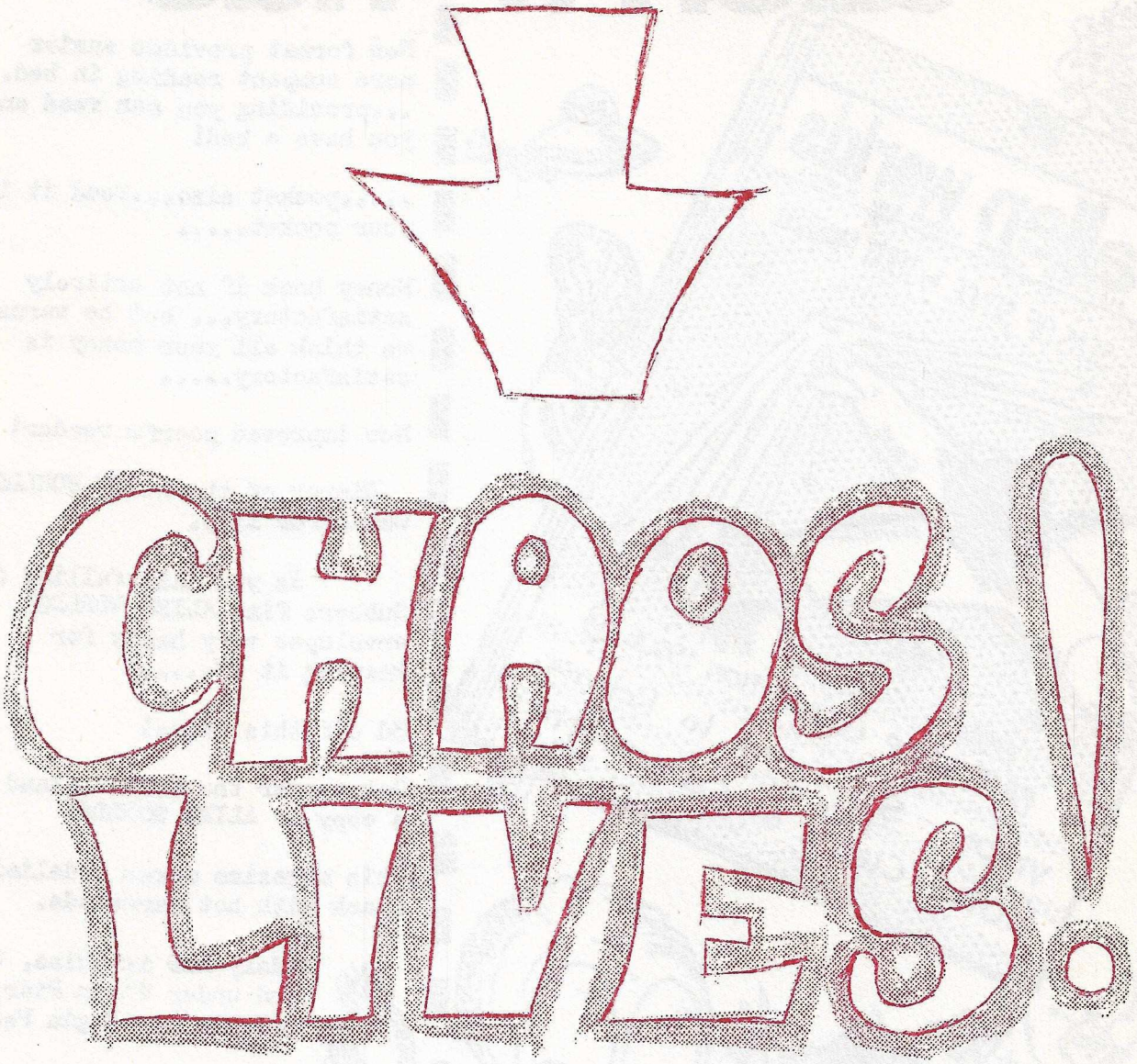
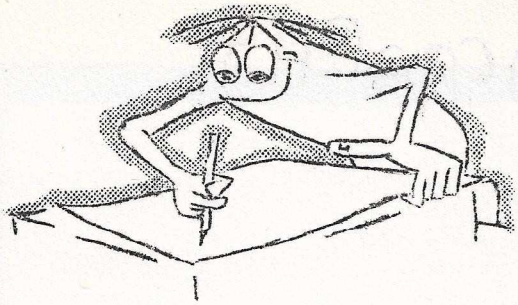


(NOW AND AGAIN)

MEANWHILE, LET'S ALL HAVE A GREAT LITTLE CONVENTION!

...Roy Kay



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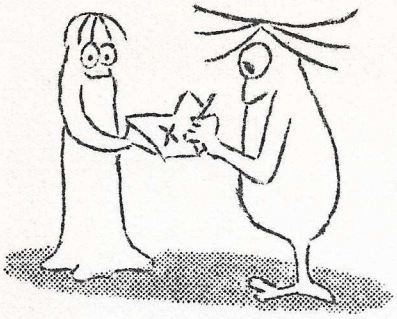


AUTOGRAPHS.

LES SPINGE

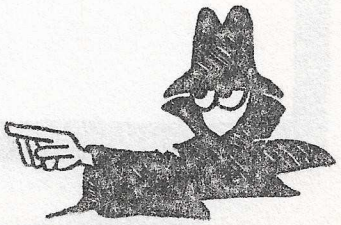
Who knows, what evil lurks in the hearts of fen?

.....The 'Shudder' knows!

HAPPY CONVENTION!

from MIK,

Cynth & THE SHUDDER...



BALTIMORE IN 1967

An active, experienced organisation plans to put on an excellent worldcon in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. in 1967 -- but we need the support of all fandom. Mentions in fanzines, support in letters, are as good as your vote on the convention floor.

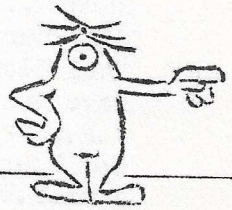
JACK L. CHALKER wishes you a happy Eastercon, and with best wishes reminds Loncon members CLEVELAND IN '66!

LONDON 1965

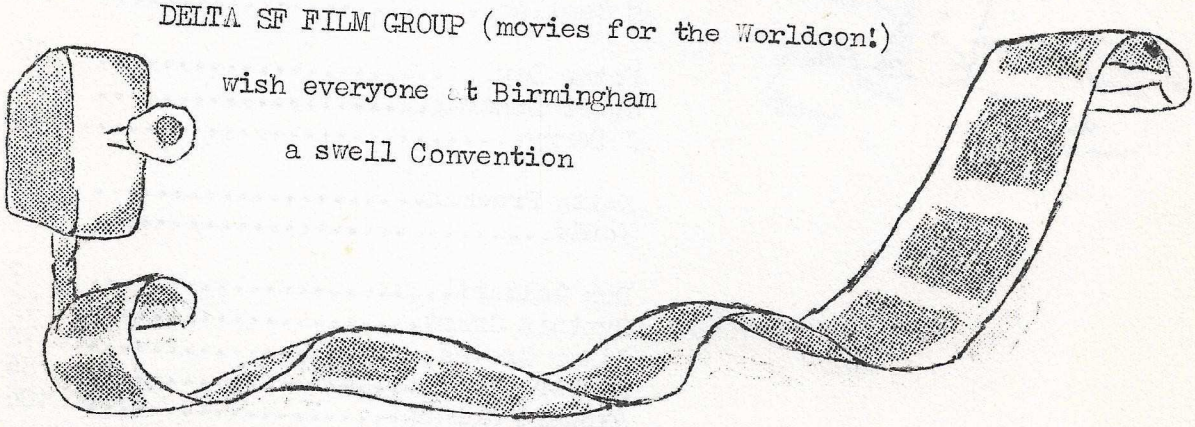
23rd World Science Fiction Convention
Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch,
London W.1.

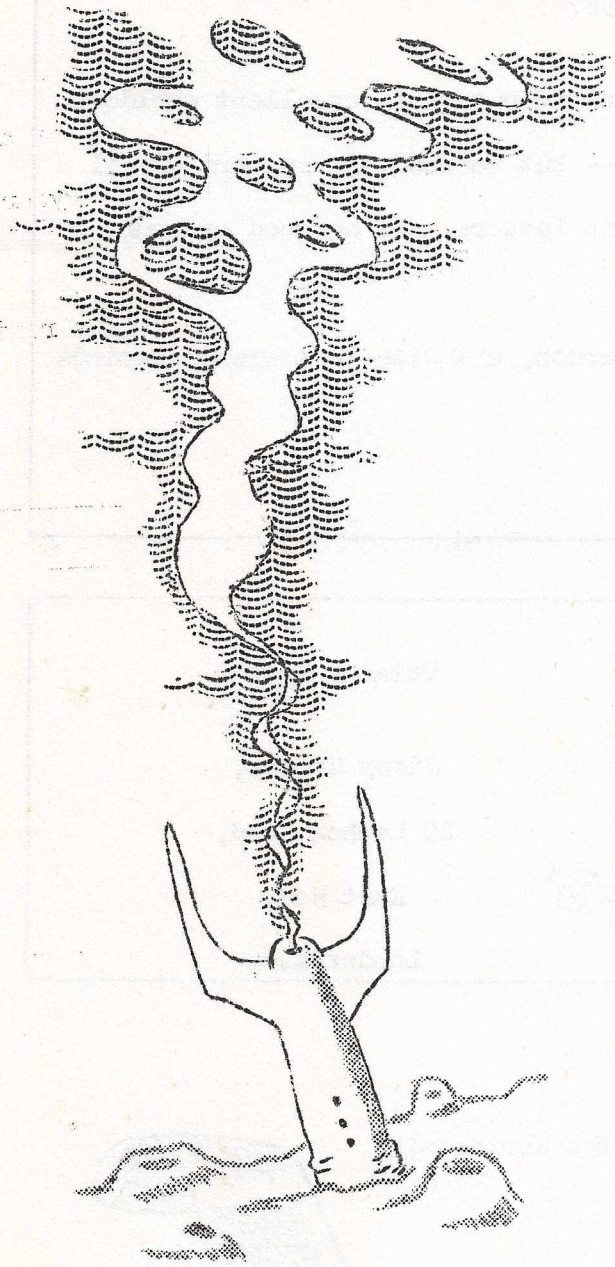
Details from

Jimmy Groves,
29 Lathom Road,
East Ham,
London E.6.



DELTA SF FILM GROUP (movies for the Worldcon!)
wish everyone at Birmingham
a swell Convention





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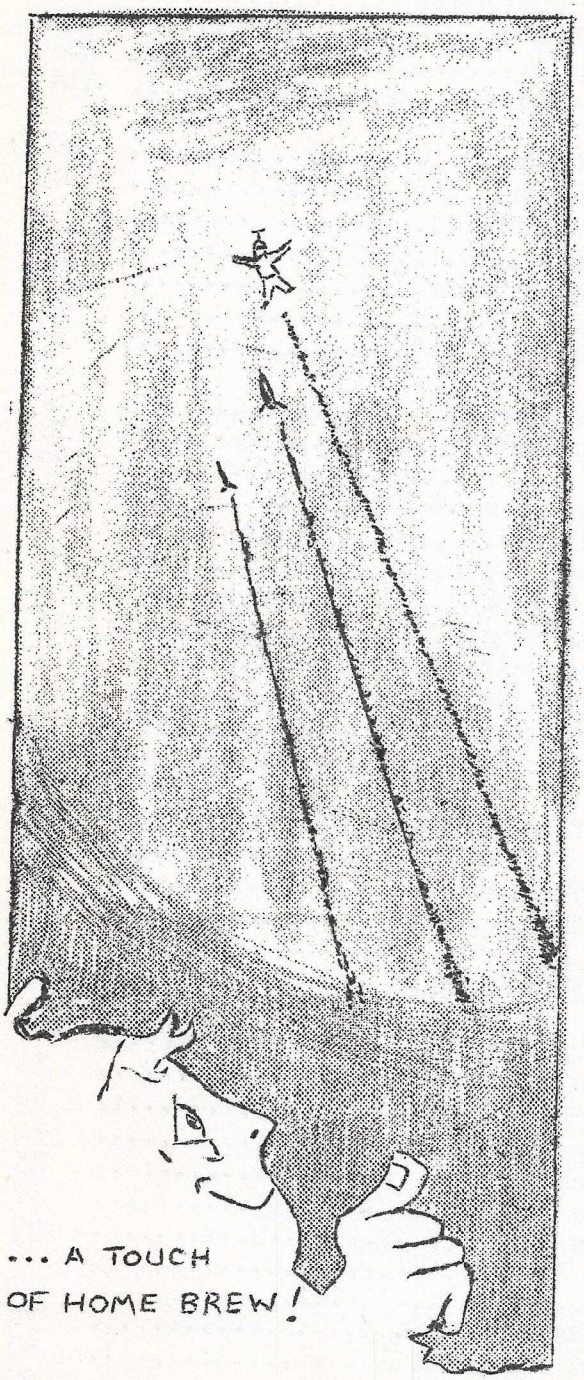

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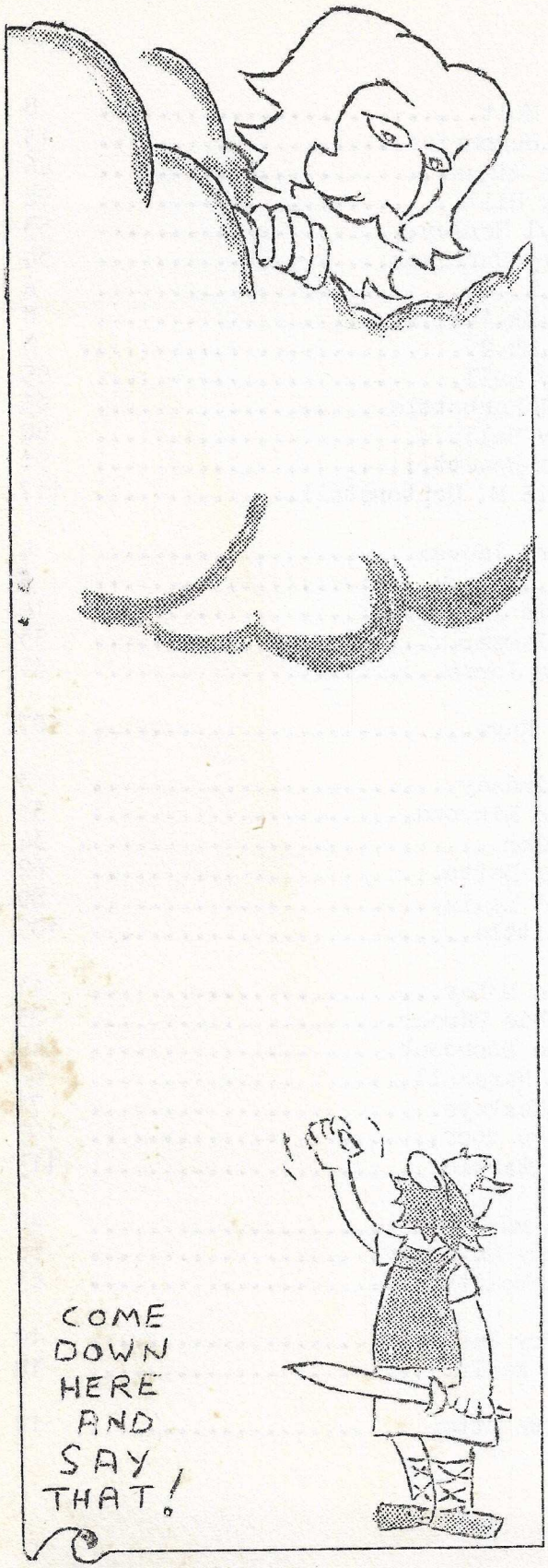

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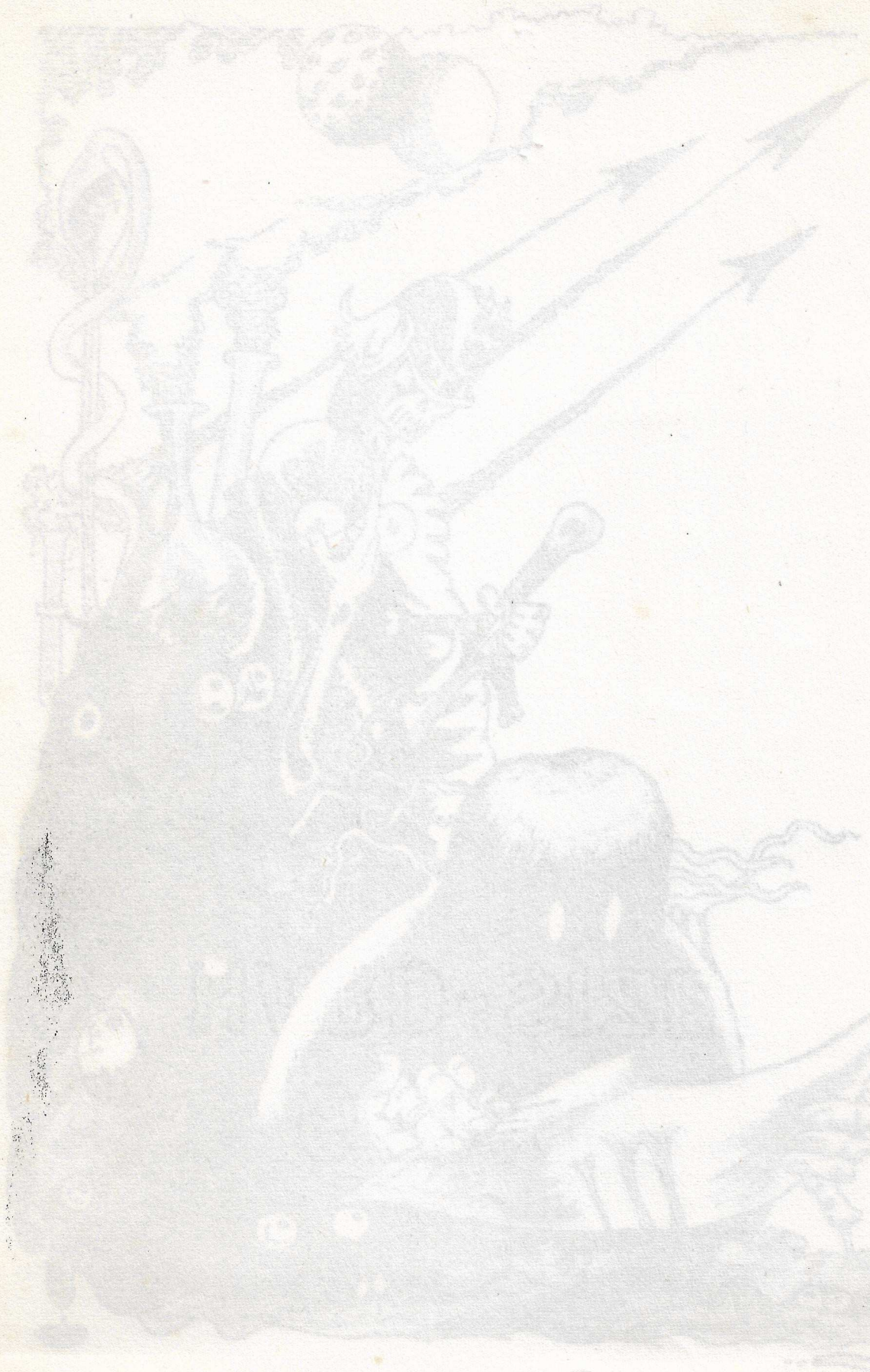
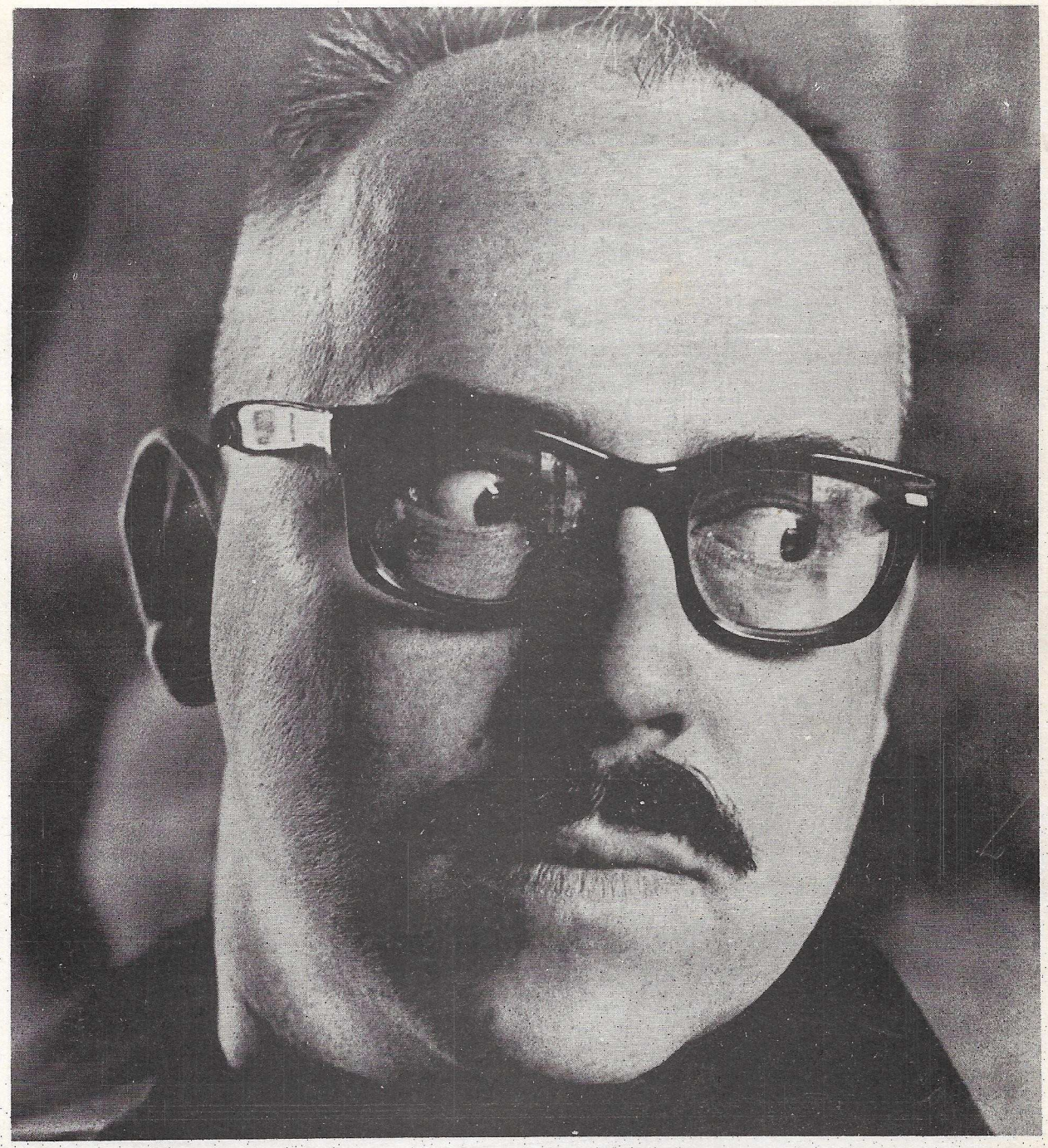


GUEST OF HONOUR

Easter 1965 Convention



HARRY HARRISON